EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Acknowledgement is made of the claims filed 12/28/2009 and they have been entered.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John W. Rees on 3/25/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

26. (Currently Amended) Method for guiding a catheter to a predetermined location within a lumen system of a body of a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a preplanned path in said lumen system from a topological representation of the lumen system;

determining a new first position of said catheter in said preplanned path according to a position signal received respective of the first position of a distal portion of said catheter and also determining a new position to which said catheter is to be moved based on said determined first position and according to said preplanned path established from said topological representation;

operating a moving mechanism to move said catheter to a second position, according to said new determined position;

receiving said position signal and performing said operating step and when said second position is substantially identical with said new determined position determining a further new position on said preplanned path to which said catheter is to be moved and when said second position is not identical with said new determined position determining a modified path that involves at least one corrective movement for said catheter, wherein said at least one corrective movement is determined, when the orientation of said distal portion at a certain location within said lumen system, is different than at least one slope of said three dimensional path at said certain location, and wherein said at least one corrective movement includes retreating said catheter backward within said lumen system, performing one of twisting and bending of said distal portion of said catheter and advancing said catheter in said lumen system; and

directing said moving mechanism to move said catheter according to said determined corrective movement along said modified path to thereby overcome an obstruction in said preplanned path;

~~receiving said position signal as said catheter is moved during said operating step and when said second position is substantially identical with said new determined position, determining a further new position on said path to which said catheter is to be moved and when said second position is not identical with said new determined position determining at least one corrective movement for said catheter, said at least one corrective movement including retreating said catheter backward within said lumen system; and~~

~~directing said moving mechanism to move said catheter according to said determined corrective movement;~~

updating at least one of said topological representation, said first position and said second position, according to an organ timing signal of an organ timing monitor coupled with a monitored organ of said body, said monitored organ being coupled with said lumen system;

controlling said moving mechanism according to at least one of said updated topological representation, said updated first position and said updated second position;

superposing a representation of at least one of said updated first position and said updated second position on an image of at least a portion of said lumen system; and

displaying said superposition wherein said displaying step includes transforming a three dimensional coordinate system of a medical positioning system for determining at least one of said first position and said second position, to a two dimensional coordinate system of said image.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELMER CHAO whose telephone number is (571)272-0674. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on (571)272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3737

/E. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3737